

and our souls. So this year we celebrate the Republic's independence and our own acknowledgment of the Cape Verdean role in American culture at the 29th annual Festival of American Folklife, which opened last week at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. In the future, we look forward to participating in the growth of a nation abroad and the celebration of its traditions at home.

REDUCTION IN VIP AIRCRAFT

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we have spent a great deal of time this week debating the Federal budget. I believe all Members can agree on the need to eliminate unjustifiable spending. At least one item in the Department of Defense budget falls into this category: the Pentagon's huge fleet of VIP aircraft. I have joined with 10 of my colleagues in introducing legislation to sell off some of these "generals' jets," which would result in a budget savings of at least \$130 to \$200 million a year.

The Department of Defense has a fleet of about 600 aircraft that are used to transport senior military personnel and civilian officials. About 500 fixed-wing planes and 100 helicopters perform administrative support missions. These aircraft do not include the Presidential aircraft, the 89th Military Airlift Wing, such as Air Force One, nor are they used for operational transport of troops. Rather, they are used for airlift transportation in support of command, installation, or management functions.

The General Accounting Office found that size of the administrative aircraft fleet—often called Operational Support Aircraft—far exceeds the wartime requirements, even according to the Pentagon's own estimates. Only 48 OSA were used "in theater" during the gulf war. This suggests that OSA aircraft's main role is not wartime, but peacetime. Even in the United States, the gulf war saw the services using much less than one-half of their inventory. The Commission on Roles and Missions also recommended reducing the size of the OSA fleet. In 1993, the Joint Chiefs report concluded that OSA inventories exceed wartime requirements. The Air Force concurred with the Joint Chiefs in 1994.

However, nothing has yet been done to eliminate the excess aircraft.

The public first heard about the aircraft issue last fall when a high-ranking Air Force general made a very expensive flight from Italy to Colorado. Although the flight was made for administrative purposes, and much less expensive commercial flights were available, a single general and his aide spent more than \$100,000 for the trip. The Air Force is even using their OSA planes to fly Air Force cadets to Hawaii to watch football games.

Perks at the Pentagon are no more justifiable than perks in any other agency of the Federal Government. If Congress is to have any hope of balancing the budget during the coming decade, we must focus our attention on reducing budget outlays. This means ending some programs that have little justification. Our bill would offer the American people significant reduction in spending that could either

reduce the Federal debt or fund other, more critical spending priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in bringing high-flying generals down to Earth. Let's save taxpayer dollars by paring this Pentagon perk.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ADOPTION INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Adoption Incentives Act of 1995 in an effort to encourage more adoptions in our country.

This bill will provide a range of tax incentives to adoptive parents to help them build families through adoption. Specifically, the bill will make adoption assistance benefits to military and private sector employees for non-recurring adoption expenses tax-free, and allow penalty-free and tax-free withdrawals from individual retirement accounts [IRA's] for adoption expenses.

There is a desperate need for adoption in our country. Today, almost half a million children are in foster care. Some of these kids languish in the foster care system for more than 5 years, bouncing from one home to another. Between 85,000 and 100,000 of these children are legally free and waiting to be adopted. An additional 3 million children were reported abused or neglected in 1993. Many may need a safe haven—a welcoming home that adoption could provide.

One major obstacle to finding permanent, loving homes for these children is the cost of adoption. The average cost of a private or nonagency adoption is conservatively estimated at \$10,000 and can run as high as \$45,000. Many adoptive families have to mortgage their homes or borrow money from relatives to build a family.

In response, 180 of the Fortune 1,000 companies have established corporate programs that provide financial assistance to employees to help cover adoption expenses. Behind borrowing money and mortgaging homes, reimbursement benefits provided by employers are the third major way in which parents finance adoptions. These benefits average \$2,000 per adoption. In 1993, corporate adoption assistance programs facilitated 2,000 of the 50,000 adoptions that occurred.

The private sector has been especially creative in providing incentives for adoption. We must do more to encourage their efforts—as this bill does.

A similar adoption assistance program was established for military personnel in the defense authorization bill of 1991. Military families are entitled to up to \$2,000 to cover adoption-related expenses. Launching this program sent a positive signal to adoption agencies that were often reluctant to start the adoption process due to frequent relocations of many military families. As a result, almost 2,500 children have been adopted with this assistance.

The Adoption Incentives Act would also permit penalty-free and tax-free withdrawals from IRA's for adoption costs. Many of the tax proposals now pending before Congress would allow penalty-free IRA withdrawals for college

tuition, buying a first home, or caring for an elderly parent, as well as catastrophic medical expenses. Shouldn't adoption be encouraged in this same way? The answer is clear—adoption is also an investment in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we send the message that adoption is a valued way of building a family and a future for our children. It is a goal we should all support.

EDITORIAL ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I want to share with you the insights of John E. Warren, editor and publisher of the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint, an African-American newspaper published in my hometown.

In a recent editorial, Warren wrote:

As America appears to be gearing up to make affirmative action the new symbol for the age old attack on the idea of equality and fairness for Blacks in this country, first, then all other groups but White males, it is extremely important that the Black response be one of reason, power, and direct results.

While it is fine to pen letters and speeches of response to the Pete Wilsons who would ride the horse of bigotry and racism into the U.S. Presidency if permitted, those letters and speeches must not become substitutes for direct action. The well known question is then asked: "What can African-Americans do to reach the moral conscious of an increasingly White America that appears to think it has done too much for too many who said things were not fair and now think that fairness is becoming an inconvenience as times get harder in a changing economy?"

Perhaps the key can be found in the paraphrase of a very old proverb "he who controls himself is better than he who controls nations."

Blacks continue to spend billions of dollars in every facet of the American economy with no economic demand for returns on our investments. We spend \$300 billion dollars a year collectively and we are begging a nation and its leaders to treat us "morally right" when we have not assumed the "moral responsibility" for ourselves.

African-Americans must remember that this country is now following a contract on America instead of the U.S. Constitution which Wade Henderson of the NAACP rightly called "our contract with America."

Consider that African-Americans have a vote, but most won't bother to use it. We have disposable income for clothes, too many of which are designed for our youth as gang attire, but we don't make these clothes. We buy new cars all over San Diego—many of which are the same as the ones sold by our one Black owned car dealership, but purchased from people who neither care for us or our communities.

We buy liquor, cigarettes, potato chips, butter and toilet tissue in larger numbers than any other ethnic group and make no demands in return. Some of those very people who benefit from our care-free spending habits use those same dollars to buy political votes across this nation that are now focused against our common good—the right to a job based on fairness and merit, the right to social insurance in time of need, the right to food, shelter and education, not based on the

color of our skin but the status of our birth as American citizens.

Perhaps if we went on a selective spending spree where we truly examine how much we spend and what we spend it for, America might rediscover that the issue is not affirmative action after all but one of spending our dollars in such a way that our adversaries will be glad to support us.

We have almost 300 Black owned newspapers in America, yet too many of us would rather get our news from CSPAN or USA Today.

The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint believes that when we harness our votes, the Pete Wilsons of the nation will be closed out of Presidential politics, no matter how much money and bigotry they have. When we harness our dollars, companies that don't hire us or advertise in our newspapers will be forced to make decisions about whether they need our market share.

When we harness our spending, and make our styles the internal commitment to ourselves and our people rather than external fashions, we will affect the American economy. When we harness ourselves the NAACP will have enough money in one, five, ten, twenty and fifty dollar donations to move in 30 days to the position of a financially debt free and sufficient organization to fight for "colored people."

When we harness our ability to focus beyond knee jerk reactions to things we hear, we will turn off the vulgar television and radio and CD sounds daily bombarding our very souls and return to the God of our silent tears and of our parents' weary years to find new hope not in what they call us or say about us, but in what we do for ourselves and each other.

Yes, there is a backlash against affirmative action that now reaches to the Supreme Court, but by the power of God almighty, we have not even begun to use our powers of reason, our available economic response and the identification of desired results. Our future is in our hands. The real question is: "African-Americans, what will you personally do as a response to this latest attack?"

IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to introduce the administration's proposal for improving education for children with disabilities under the Individuals With Disabilities Act [IDEA].

Since enactment of Public Law 94-142, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975, results for children with disabilities have improved greatly. Before the enactment of that groundbreaking law, 1 million children with disabilities were excluded from school altogether, and several were in dehumanizing institutions. Today, one of the basic goals of the IDEA has been met—children with disabilities have access to education.

The Department of Education has undertaken a very thorough process in preparing this legislative proposal. They consulted with parents, educators, and hundreds of others concerned with improving the education of children with disabilities, including congressional staff from both sides of the aisle. They asked for public comment in the Federal Register and received over 3,000 responses. Dur-

ing more than 1 year of consultation, they heard about the strengths of the law, including its focus on individualized approaches, its protection of the rights of children and their families, and its support for innovative approaches for teaching.

The administration's proposal makes improvements to the IDEA to ensure that the fundamental objectives of the law are more likely to be achieved, while preserving existing rights and protections for children and their families. This proposal is based on six key principles that are designed to improve results for students with disabilities:

1. Align the IDEA with State and local education reform efforts so students with disabilities can benefit from them.

2. Improve results for students with disabilities through higher expectations and meaningful access to the general curriculum, to the maximum extent possible.

3. Address individual needs in the least restrictive environment for the student.

4. Provide families and teachers—those closest to students—with the knowledge and training to effectively support students' learning.

5. Focus on teaching and learning.

6. Strengthen early intervention to ensure that every child starts school ready to learn.

As Congress undertakes its review of this legislation, I am certain we will reaffirm our commitment to the basic purposes of the IDEA and the recognition of the Federal role in ensuring that all children with disabilities are provided with the equal educational opportunity that the Constitution guarantees. We now have the opportunity to take what we have learned over the past 20 years and use the administration's proposal to update and improve this law. I commend the administration for their bold initiative and look forward to working with the committee in seeing it through to its final passage.

EIGHTH ANNUAL STAR AWARDS RECOGNIZE ACHIEVEMENTS BY NEW JERSEY YOUTH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a group of high school students who have succeeded in their studies, academic and vocational, despite the barriers which they faced. On June 1, 1995 in Atlantic City, a group of 34 outstanding youths from the State of New Jersey were honored and awarded for their perseverance at the Student Training Achievement Recognition [STAR] Awards.

The STAR Awards, created by the Garden State Employment and Training Association, and sponsored by members of the business community, aim to increase awareness of education and its relationship to employment. The awards are given to youth who are determined to be at risk and who, despite the most difficult of circumstances, either completed their high school education, or who dropped out of high school but completed a training program and obtained a job.

Some of the obstacles which these youths overcame include physical or sexual abuse

and neglect; family trauma such as divorce, unemployment, or death; school-age single parenthood; physical and emotional handicaps; and contact with the judicial system which led to conviction or designation as a delinquent. Many of the youngsters honored with these awards overcame more than one of these barriers.

Each Private Industry Council in New Jersey participated in the nomination process, designating a young member of the local community who fought against seemingly insurmountable odds and emerged a winner. The following individuals are the recipients of the 1995 STAR Awards:

Chad B. Jenkins; Wanda Lopez; S. Jonathan Deauna; Ramon Mejia; Jessica M. Carter; Mark Anthony Logan; Gerald F. Wynkoop, Jr.; William Alcazar; Michael McDonald; Olga Sierra; Paris Armwood; Tywanda Whitefield; Brenda Carpenter; Carla Owens; Robyn Murgas; Nicole Richardson; Lakiesha Stokes; Barbara Gomez; Tonia Singletary; Tyese Nichols; Marilyn Sanchez; Ivelys Bruno; Kisha Ann Franklin; Sujail Rosa; Morris E. Lawson; Madelyn Ramos; Gregory Wertz; Linda Kulick; Lisa Beckett; Sean Devaney; Yanette Gonzalez; Jessica Corchado; Monique Gallman; and Jason Kinney.

The recipients of the STAR Awards are an inspiration to millions of students in similar circumstances throughout the country. They are a shining example of youth who became responsible members of the community despite circumstances which might have prevented them from doing so. I salute these extraordinary young men and women.

THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the small businesses regulatory bill of rights.

This country's small businesses are drowning in a sea of paperwork. Recently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] released a list of its most frequently cited violations. The top three on the list were directly related to paperwork, and they alone accounted for over 10,000 citations in 1994.

Additionally, the Small Business Roundtable reports that in 1993 the actual costs of businesses to comply with Federal regulations were \$581 billion. Small businesses cannot afford the accounting departments, chemists, and lawyers that it takes to comply with the ever-increasing and confusing regulations issued by the Federal Government.

Last year, the Federal Government added over 68,000 pages of rules and regulations to the millions already on the books. In fact, the regulatory process has become so complex that the Federal Register now teaches classes just so individuals can better understand the rulemaking journal.

The economy of this Nation is based on small businesses. Ninety-five percent of all the businesses in this country are classified as small businesses. They represent the American Dream. Individuals risk life savings in